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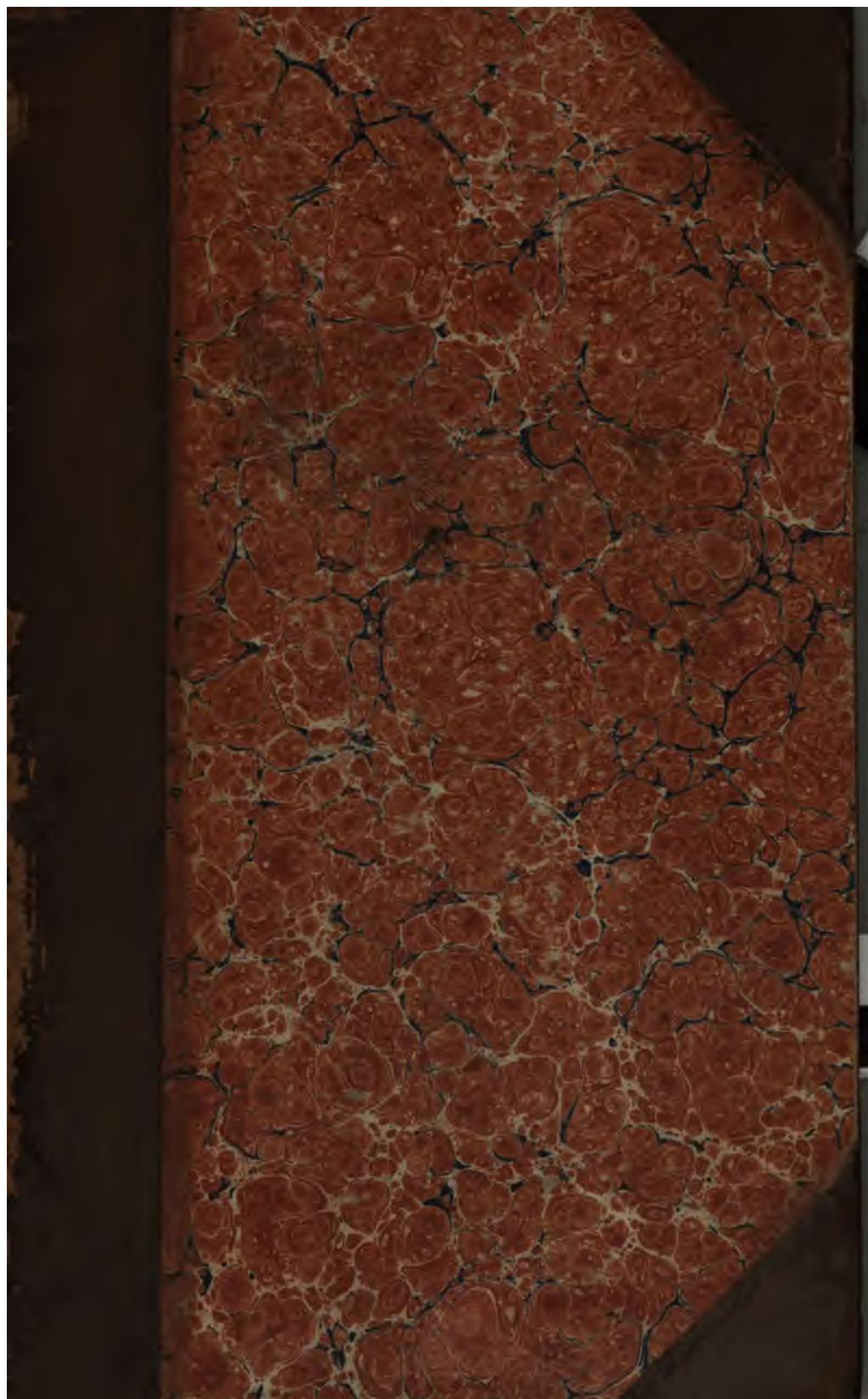
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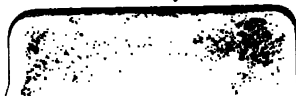


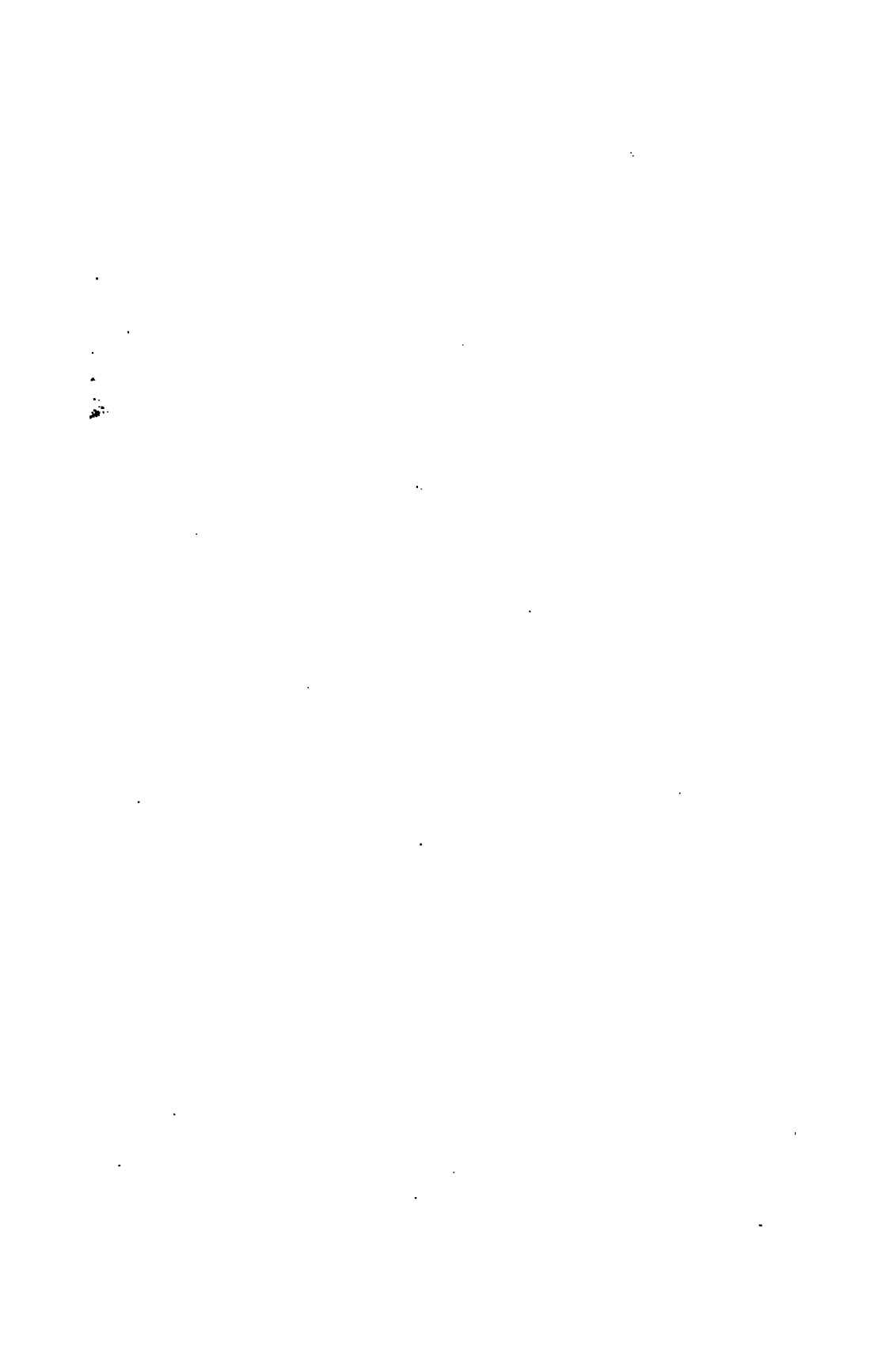


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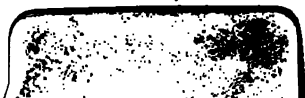


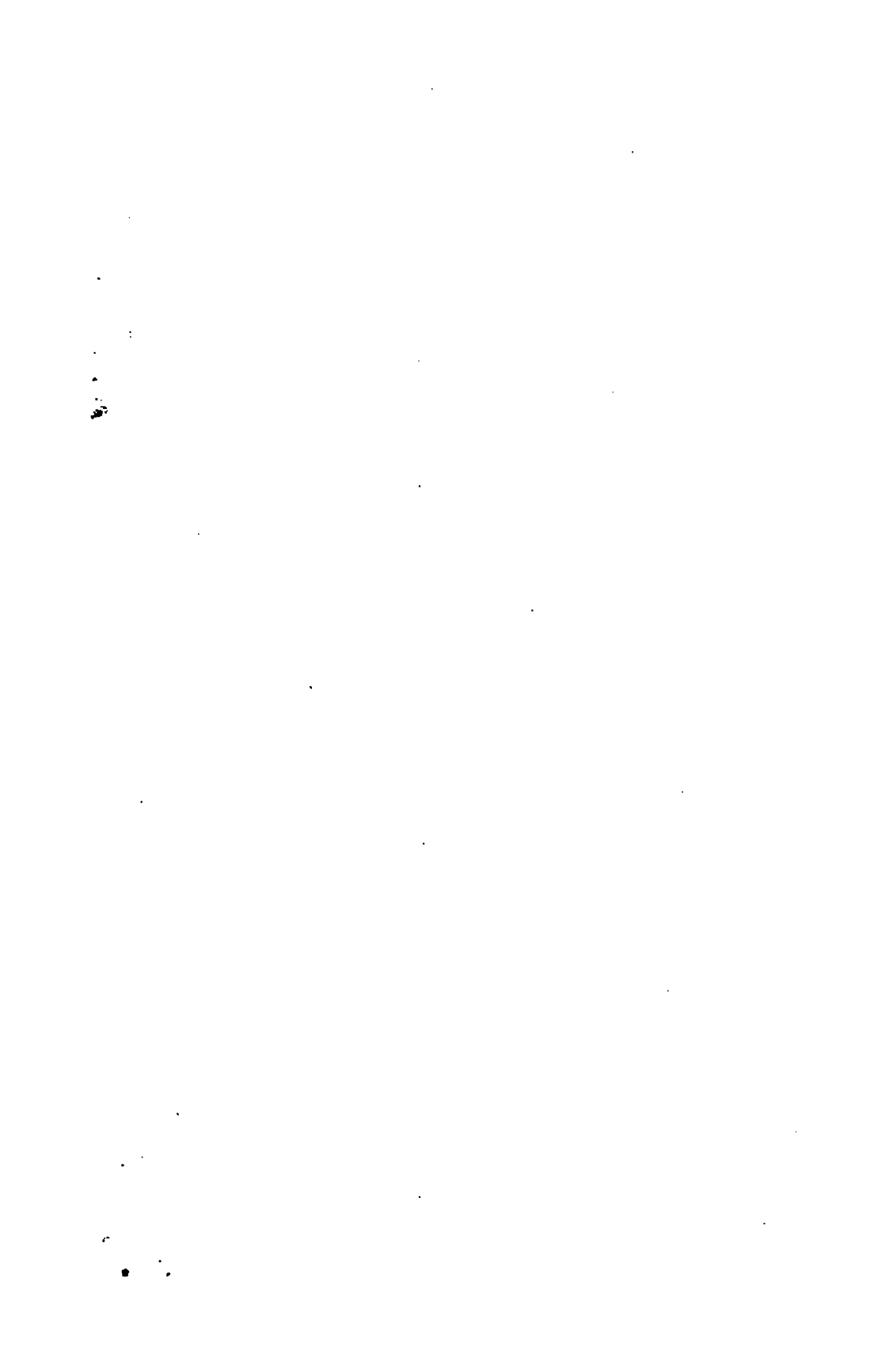


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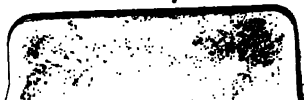




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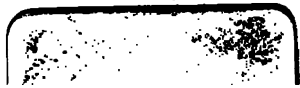
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H. 1831.
AN APPEAL

TO

THE LEGISLATURE,

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

**OFFICE OF KING'S PRINTER,
IN ENGLAND;**

LATELY

RENEWED FOR THIRTY YEARS;

SHewing THAT

A LARGE PORTION

OF THE

EMOLUMENTS OF THE OFFICE

BELONG TO THE PUBLIC;

**WITH REMARKS ON THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF CONTRACTS
FOR TERMS OF YEARS, THE STATIONERY OFFICE
SYSTEM, &c.**

By SAMUEL BROOKE, PRINTER,

**MANY YEARS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE GOVERNMENT, FOR SEVERAL
OF THE PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS.**

LONDON:

**PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, AT THE LAW
PRINTING OFFICE, 35, PATER-NOSTER ROW.**

1830.

[Price Two Shillings and Sixpence.]

411.



AN APPEAL
TO
THE LEGISLATURE, &c.

THE Commencement of a new Reign, and the consequent Election of Members to sit in a new Parliament, appears to be the fittest time for directing the attention of the Government to any error, deception, or abuse, which we have known to prevail during a former period, and urging an investigation where we feel assured it is necessary, and the necessity for which we can make sufficiently apparent.

It is but too evident that a general dissatisfaction prevails in the Country; abuses are known to exist, but few persons are able and willing to give a clue to the labyrinth in which their roots are hidden; let all those persons, therefore, who can direct the Government and the public to the means of discovering them, come boldly and honorably forward with a tender of their knowledge and experience, to assist in tracing the sources of those evils which surround us; and become the humble

instruments in forwarding the amiable design of our present Sovereign, to promote, by every practicable means, the welfare of all ranks and classes of his subjects.

It is, in truth, a duty we owe to our King and Country, and, if performed faithfully, and without prejudice, entitles us to respect, and attention from the confidential advisers of the Crown, and the ministerial officers of the Government.

It would be more desirable, however, certainly, and appear more respectful to the Sovereign, if our information could be intrusted to his Majesty's confidential advisers, and our reliance placed upon their judgment and discretion.

But having repeatedly conveyed our sentiments to those whose duty it was to investigate matters concerning the welfare of the Country—having afforded them the result of our inquiries, knowledge, and experience—having laboured in making calculations for them, and referred them to public documents, proving, indisputably, the truth of our statements, and the utility of our advice, and having found that advice and those suggestions treated with indifference or contempt, we are surely justified in making a public appeal to those who have the power to effect a permanent remedy.

The writer of this statement has done all this, has experienced all this. He has contemplated and felt, in common with every other individual in the Printing Business, the injurious effects of the Grants for long terms of the Office of King's Printer. He has, at various times, been assured, that the Government had determined to pursue the most stern system of economy, meaning, no doubt, pecuniary saving, in all branches of their expenditure; he knows that a system of the most rigid kind has been pursued with regard to himself and others, whom no proof of fidelity, no length of service, could save from the ruin of its sweeping and destructive consequences. His complaints of ruinous injury, have been repeatedly met by the assurance, that Government were impelled to this system of parsimony by the distressed state of the Country, and the imperative duty of relieving the people from some portion of the burthen of taxation. In vain did the writer—in vain did the other Printers for the Stationery Office, appeal to the unparalleled lowness of the Scale by which their charges were regulated, and minutely checked.* No—competition, to the utmost extent, is the Treasury

* This Scale of Prices, settled by Referees appointed by Government in 1814, is given at the end of the pamphlet.

command ; the writer submits with the others—he retires, after thirty years' service, but *without its usual consequences.*

But it comes to the writer's knowledge, that a perfectly contrary line of conduct is pursued towards persons transacting the same description of business in other departments—a conduct the very reverse of economical ; in fact, most wasteful and extravagant ; and that immensely large sums of money remain in possession of the Patent Printers, which belong to the public, and which ought to be applied to the necessities of the State.* Not doubting that the heads of the Government are in ignorance of these facts, he thinks it a most imperative duty to undeceive them. He therefore sits down calmly to re-examine the facts of the case, giving to the oral and documentary evidence in his possession, the most attentive and

* I must here, once for all, declare most unequivocally, that I mean no imputation on the Parliamentary Printers. If they have been more favored than myself and others, it is their good fortune, and very possibly their greater merits. Few men would resist the temptation of making a speedy fortune by means of high charges, if they were sure of having them not only passed, but applauded. And as to the vast sums which I imagine to belong to the public, in the hands of the Patentees, I will acknowledge that most men would be desirous of retaining those large sums, if not only permitted, but encouraged in so doing, by persons who should bring them to account. I blame the Government—not their agents.

dispassionate consideration possible ; and after again and again going through the calculations which his long experience in the Printing business enables him to make on correct principles, he arrives at the same conclusion as at first—namely, that a very large sum of money has been hitherto lost to the Country, by the neglect of the Treasury officers ; and that certain favoured Printers have for many years charged for their work a price very considerably higher than that which, in other branches, Government declared they thought it an imperative duty to reduce, by means of public competition, and the consequent dismissal of all those persons who could not afford to make any reduction from their very low rates of charge.

Being confident that all this could not take place, if the Ministers of the Country were not kept in ignorance of these facts ; and not permitting himself to attribute to the chiefs of the Government a wilful system of meanness, extravagance, cruelty, partiality, and injustice, the writer sees clearly that some interested persons must have deceived them with false statements, and resolves to spare no exertions to counteract such shameful proceedings.

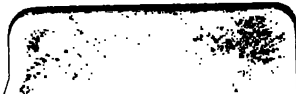
He obtains interviews with persons very high in office, and endeavours to make them comprehend the true state of the case ; but by



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true, in the Appendix—instead of which, the tradesmen whose rates of charge have so greatly exceeded those in the departments subjected to rigorous competition, are justified by the Committee.* This was disheartening indeed; but the writer consoles himself that the Patent Right of one of the great establishments would expire in a very few years, and then the public would have the power of acting frugally and justly. The writer therefore prepares a long and circumstantial statement of the transactions from the commencement of the last Grant of the Monopoly, thirty years before; he carries it himself to the new and illustrious Minister, to whom the people looked up with

* The words used by the Committee of 1822, at the close of their Report, are, "that nothing tending, in any degree, to countenance *imputations* against the character of these persons, has appeared in the course of the inquiries of your Committee." The *imputations* of course alluded to my statement of what Mr. Reeves' Bill in Chancery contains. I despise the insinuation of the author of that Report. Neither *imputation* nor *aspersion of private character* have I been guilty of. I stated facts—it was the Committee's duty to investigate and disprove them. The only error I made was in understating the profits charged in Mr. Reeves' Bill in Chancery, at £9000, instead of £13,000—unwilling to err on the unfavorable side. However, I now state the FACTS again. For my credibility I refer to them, and put myself fearlessly on my Country.

an extraordinary degree of confidence, as possessing the power, and, as they hoped and believed, a real inclination, to redress their wrongs, and, as much as possible, relieve their distresses. A very polite note, in the Minister's own hand-writing, acknowledges the receipt of the statement. The writer now feels satisfied that all is in train. He goes contentedly to his family on the Continent, where he had been compelled to remove, from finding his income too small to support them in this Country in the rank of life to which they are entitled, (in consequence of the loss of what he derived from the Government employ, enjoyed by himself and his father for forty years) there to wait patiently the proceedings of the powerful individual to whom he confidently trusted.

What words can describe his astonishment at receiving a letter which informed him, that the injurious and extravagant Monopoly was renewed to the same house of business for Thirty Years more.

Astounding indeed was the information, but there was still a ray of comfort left, as there generally is in most afflictions.

A new Sovereign had ascended the throne, reported by every person to be amiable, benevolent, and gracious, and this oppressive

Monopoly had been renewed in the reign of his predecessor.

This the writer felt to be encouraging and consoling, and he immediately resolved to cross the sea, and once more tender his information, and point out its sources to the new Parliament and the public, in the shape of a pamphlet; not without a hope, though barely a possibility, that our condescending and kind-hearted King himself may become acquainted with its contents, and honor the writer's motives with his approbation.

This, then, is the best and only apology I can make for the following narrative relating to Public Printing, in which I shall chiefly confine myself to the exclusive Monopoly created by the Patent of King's Printer, which has lately been so injudiciously renewed for Thirty Years.

Here, therefore, I commence a sort of historical statement, in the course of which I shall be compelled to introduce myself on the stage more frequently than is desirable to me, but which is unavoidable, in order to connect my detail, the facts of which I feel confident of being able to prove most satisfactorily:—

I. The Stationery Office was established during Mr. Pitt's administration, for the pur-

pose of saving, in future, to the public, those enormous profits, arising from exclusive Grants for long terms of years, called Patents, for the supply of Printing and Stationery to all the departments of Government.

II. For several years after the establishment of that Office, Mr. Pitt continued steadily to refuse the renewal of any Patent, and placed the business, on every expiration of one, under the new Office.

III. In 1799, he deviated from his declared determination, probably from a wish to give Mr. Reeves an annuity of £1500, in consequence, as I presume, of the prosecution of 1796, instead of placing him on the Pension List, which must have excited serious observation in Parliament. Accordingly, Mr. Pitt desired to see one of the Printers under the expiring Patent in Downing Street, where, in the presence of Mr. Reeves and Mr. Thornton, Mr. Pitt explained his intention of thus providing for Mr. R. by giving him a share in the new Patent, and called on the Patentee to state the average amount of profit derived from the Office of King's Printer, as Mr. R. did not wish to interfere with the printing arrangements, but would agree to take a certain portion, to be fixed. Mr. Pitt having ascertained, from the assurances given to him, that the

average profits, in time of war, did not exceed £3000 per annum, and in time of peace £2000, it was agreed that Mr. Reeves should have £1500 per annum as his share.

IV. In 1807 Mr. Reeves became dissatisfied with this arrangement, having discovered, as he imagined, that the profits were far more considerable; he therefore filed a Bill of Discovery against his co-partners in the Patent, in which he gave a schedule or statement of sums paid to the Patentees by the Treasury, in the first six years of the Patent, the last of which he states to amount to £34,626, and he charges the average profit to be £13,000 per annum.* To this the defendants pleaded only in general terms, as usual in Chancery evasive pleas, but gave no denial to the facts assumed.

V. An arrangement more advantageous to Mr. Reeves was probably then made, the nature of which of course I am unacquainted with, but previous to which Mr. R. had spontaneously, in my office in Pater-noster Row, communicated to me the above facts, but not in confidence, for he was a stranger to me; I had never before seen him; it happened that I was reprinting a work of his, and in the course of a conversation, he made a voluntary communication of the above facts.

* See the Bill and Answer in this cause, *Reeves v. Eyre and Strahan*, in the Inrolment Office.

VI. The Ninth Report of the Committee on PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, relates to Public Printing. One of the Patentees is examined before the Committee, and gives in a copy of the Patent, dated the 8th July, 1799;* it recites all the Patents from the time of Charles the 2d up to the 10th January, 1739, but no further; of course, there must be two omitted prior to the one which included Mr. Reeves. One of the Patentees also gives in to the Committee their account against the Treasury for 1809, amounting to £36,137. 3s. 5d.

VII. I have no recollection of any matters relating to this subject, worthy of notice, until the year 1821, when the very large sums brought forward in the Supplies, on account of Parliamentary Printing, called forth such severe remarks from some Members, that one of the Secretaries of the Treasury promised a Committee the next Session.

VIII. Accordingly a Committee was appointed in May, 1822, a few days previous to the meeting of which I had an interview with Mr. Arbuthnot, at the Treasury, being desirous to communicate to Government what I knew respecting these subjects; but when I attempted to state what Mr. Reeves had informed me, and the contents of the Bill in Chancery, that gentle-

* See a copy, reprinted at the end of this pamphlet.

man rose suddenly from his chair, and declared that he could not listen to such aspersions of private character! His anger astonished me, but I had only to retire in disappointment. The Committee being appointed to meet in the following week, I went to the House, and sending in my name to the Chairman, stated, that I had information to communicate on the subject of their inquiry, and requested to be informed when I should attend for that purpose. I was politely informed that the Committee would let me know. This was in May, but I heard nothing from the Committee till the 15th July, when I again went to the House, and was examined. See my evidence, printed in pages 235, 6, 7, 8, 9, 40, and 242, 3, 4, 5, 246, and 7, of the Appendix to the Committee's Report.

IX. Another Committee of Inquiry has since been moved for by Sir Matthew White Ridley, who, I believe, became the Chairman. To this gentleman I gave all the information I possessed; he did not call for my evidence before the Committee.

X. I have since made every possible effort with the Duke of Wellington, to whom I sent a detail in 1828, of all the circumstances narrated in this Pamphlet. All my communications on this and several other subjects, have

been acknowledged with great politeness, under the Duke's own hand; but it now appears they have produced no effect on his mind, nor prevented the renewal of this baneful Monopoly.

XI. And now comes the last Act in the drama—the renewal of the King's Printing Patent in the last year (1829) to Messrs. Eyre, Strahan, and Spottiswoode, for Thirty Years.

On all these distinct portions of the narrative, I shall take the liberty of making the following observations:—

The establishment of an office for the superintendence of so large and important a branch of the public expenditure, was a measure calculated to benefit the public interest in a very eminent degree. The persons who were refused a continuance of their Patent Monopolies, were become rich through their former Grants, and the tradesmen who executed the various branches of business under them, were assured by Mr. Rose, at the desire of Mr. Pitt, “that Ministers had no wish to remove them, but expected they would perform the business for Government at what is called **THE TRADE PRICE**,” to which they all readily assented, and continued to do so for twenty years, when the Treasury were induced by the new Storekeeper,

Bloxam, to establish Contracts, renewable every four years, on tenders at a *minimum* of price, and arranged by way of discount on the Scale drawn up, only three years previously, by Referees appointed by the Treasury, and who certified that the prices were as low as could be afforded. This was, of course, destructive to the old tradesmen. I shall, however, not enlarge further on the practices sanctioned at that time by persons in power, through the agency of Sir Matthew and his associates—this shall be reserved for a future opportunity.

It is difficult to conjecture what could be the motives of the Treasury for exempting those great branches of Public Printing from the control of the Stationery Office, which was established for the very purpose; and to whose superintendence the Printers for the Revenue departments, the Printers for the Navy, Army, &c.—all concerns of great magnitude and confidentiality—had willingly and cheerfully submitted themselves. The annual amount of Parliamentary and Patent Printing, though very large in quantity, was *not nearly so large* as the printing carried on under the control of the Stationery Office, yet the sum charged by the Parliamentary Printers, even in the year 1809, must have been three times as great as that of *all the other offices put together*;

this is distinctly proveable, from the account printed by the Committee on Public Expenditure, in the Appendix to their Ninth Report, pages 188, 189.

I have so firmly determined to confine myself to facts which can be proved, and the self-evident deductions from those facts, that I will make no useless conjectures on the subject of the Treasury motives; let those whose duty it is to investigate these matters, perform that duty faithfully to the public, and let it not still be neglected for Thirty Years to come.

It is, however, not so difficult to conjecture why Mr. Pitt consented to the renewal of the King's Printing Patent in 1799, which must be ascribed to the wish to reward Mr. Reeves for certain well-known services by a thirty years' pension of £1500; this no doubt he calculated would last his life, and so it turned out.

But it is only fair to allow, in extenuation of this injurious and inconsistent measure, that Mr. Pitt was led to believe the whole amount of the average annual profits did not exceed £3000 at the utmost; so that when £1500 was taken for Mr. Reeves, the remainder could not be too much for the public to pay, for the amount of work as it then stood, and any *proportionate* increase which might be likely to arise.

But surely the amount of the annual profits should have been matter for further and more minute inquiry at that time, and the rate of charge for printing fixed by a Scale, and made the condition of holding this Office, (for an Office it is, with a salary attached,) and not left to the option of the Printers, checked only by the vague words "*fair and reasonable*," at the end of the Patent, and the control of Treasury Clerks, ignorant of the business.

A separate establishment should also have been arranged for the sale of books printed by authority of the Royal Prerogative, which, under a proper system of management, would have proved, I feel confident, greatly beneficial, as well as productive.

Yet this Fact is perfectly undeniable—that the Grant does not, by any expression used therein, authorise the appropriation by the Patentees as their own, of the *very large Book-seller's Profits*, which have arisen from the extravagant prices fixed on Acts of Parliament, and other papers sold by them; to which they are no more entitled, by the wording of the Grant, nor by the intention of the Grantors, as clearly proved by Mr. Reeves, than the writer of this narrative.

The statement of £3000 a-year profit, which Mr. Reeves's Bill in Chancery asserts, was made by one of the Patentees to Mr. Pitt, in the presence of Mr. Reeves and Mr. Thornton, could only have had reference to the Printing, not to a second profit from Bookselling; and although the answer to this allegation of Reeves is, that the Printer's statement was not made "*with the knowledge of his (nominal) partner,*" yet if the Patent was renewed in faith and reliance upon that statement by one partner, and not contradicted, they are both bound by it, upon every principle of law and equity.

But have we no proof that a second profit was not intended, by *the Words of the Patent itself*, which gives only PRINTING, at a fair and reasonable price? What do we want more? The conclusion is evident, undeniable. The Patentees ought to account for all profits on the Sale of Acts, Books, and Papers, after deducting a fair and reasonable charge for paper, printing, and contingencies. This the public will expect to be enforced by the new Parliament, or they will, in despair, abandon every hope of benefit from their meetings.

How very unaccountable, then, has been the conduct of the officers at the Treasury, in whose department these charges ought to have been checked and scrutinized. It is evident no kind of examination has taken place.

This is strongly animadverted upon by the Committee in 1810, whose remarks I shall give at length :—

“ Your Committee think it necessary to advert
 “ to the nature of the Patent of Messrs. Eyre
 “ and Strahan, and to the general principle
 “ on which such Patents are granted. The
 “ clause already mentioned, which authorises
 “ the Board of Treasury to exercise its judgment in respect to prices, is undoubtedly
 “ important, and diminishes the objection to
 “ exclusive Grants of this description ; but
 “ the very principle of every Patent professing to give an exclusive right to sell a particular article, involves at least some portion of the evil so well known to attend
 “ commercial Monopolies, however guarded
 “ against ; and it is practically found in the
 “ present instance, not only that the clause
 “ in question appears to have had no operation, but that any reform so effectual as
 “ that which a due attention to economy
 “ might now dictate, is obstructed by the
 “ existence of the Patent. Your Committee
 “ conceive, that the most economical mode
 “ of supplying the public with Acts of Parliament, would be by separating the two
 “ branches of Printer and Bookseller, now
 “ considered by Messrs. Eyre and Strahan,
 “ as united in them by authority of the Patent ; and it is chiefly the doubt which the
 “ Committee entertain as to the construction
 “ of the Patent in this respect, which has
 “ restrained them from delivering a more
 “ confident opinion, than that which they

“ have expressed in favor of a reduction of
 “ the Prices charged by the Patentees in the
 “ former part of this Report.”

The same negligence has been shewn, in limiting or checking the charges for the House of Commons Printing; and it must appear to all disinterested persons not a little extraordinary, that when a public office had existed for many years, whose officers had become perfectly well acquainted with the prices of all descriptions of Printing, and all sorts of paper, the various Committees, styled “of Inquiry,” should have, in every instance, neglected to call for their opinion, or make a comparison between the Parliamentary prices and those allowed at that Office (the Stationery Office), but trusted to the explanations given by the Parliamentary Printers themselves, who were permitted to select specimens of their accounts, after a year’s notice that an inquiry would take place.

’Tis true some other Printers were examined; but those who were not friendly to these opulent establishments, had very little attention shewn them by the investigators. As one instance of the indifference of the members to what was testified on these occasions, it will be seen, by reference to the evidence of a well-known Printer in 1810, he stated it as his opinion that Government should

pay 50 per cent. higher than booksellers (called trade price). Now the Stationery Office would have shewn that they did not allow any such principle, nor did their Printers, at least I can state so for myself, ever expect it.

It appears, that in 1810 the Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons looked over the accounts of the House of Commons Printers, but he expressly says, (App. p. 198) that he is no judge of the propriety of their charges.

If the Committee had desired to ascertain whether the charges were reasonable, and made upon the same principles as those of other houses in their employ, they should have called for all the accounts of the Parliamentary Printers, for several years back, from the Office where they were deposited, and referred them to the Stationery Office to examine and report, upon which Report they would have had an independent judgment to exercise, and report to the House.

The Committee on Public Expenditure which met in 1810, though performing their duty far more advantageously to the public than other Committees on these subjects, almost entirely confines its observations to a sort of summing up of the evidence given in their own behalf by the interested individuals whose charges were to be scrutinized; and this evidence is taken, in most cases, to be conclusive.

They give the charges as they find them, without stating what they ought to be.

After reporting what the charges of Messrs. Eyre and Strahan are for their general business, on which charges they do not animadvert, they say, "The printing of Acts of Parliament, &c. stands on a different footing from other printing." This is a mistake, if they allude to price: their Patent gives them no right to charge higher for printing Acts, &c. than any other printing, and this the Committee would easily have discovered, if they had attentively considered the words of the Grant, which is printed at length in their Appendix, (and copied at the end of this narrative.)

The Committee, however, though somewhat tenderly touching the subject, do venture to state that Acts of Parliament are charged 40 per cent.* higher than other Parliamentary work, but why it is done they do not inquire, resting satisfied with Mr. Strahan's assurance that the Patentees have a right so to charge.

The extract I have given from the Committee's Report is very important; therein we

* In this, again, they are rather short of the mark; for they tell the House that Acts charged 2½d. per sheet would, if charged as other Parliamentary work, have been *considerably below* 1½d. Now 2½d. is 100 per cent. higher than 1½d., the least the Committee can mean by *considerably* lower than 1½d.

see a positive appeal by Parliament against such Monopolies, and in very strong language. The Committee also speak of the two branches of Printer and Bookseller, but do not acknowledge the right of these persons to the profit of both. It is to be lamented, however, that they had not made more extensive and particular inquiries into the real nature of this Office; it is probable something effectual would have been done to force the Treasury to do the duty contemplated by Mr. Pitt and the Government at that time; as there evidently appears, throughout this investigation, a desire, in some of the Members at least, who were appointed to the duty, to prevent that sort of concealment which subsequent Committees have most evidently and glaringly connived at.

I was at that time Excise Printer, under the Stationery Office, and felt greatly surprised at not being sent for to explain the business of that department. Had I attended the Committee, I should certainly have taken the opportunity of stating what Mr. Reeves had told me three years previously, which must have roused their attention to a further investigation of the terms of the Patent.

I cannot avoid here noticing a misstatement which appears in a Return from the Stationery Office, of the annual charge for Excise Printing in 1808 and 1809, which they

state at £11,000 odd hundreds in the former, and £13,000 in the latter. It was not one-third of those amounts. I should certainly have attended that Committee, as I have done since in 1822, notwithstanding an evident desire in certain persons to keep me away, had I imagined so gross a mis-statement would have appeared.

The Committee, at pages 207 and 208, of the Appendix, give a list of the distribution of Public Acts to Magistrates, &c. which amounts to 5500 copies. This document is particularly important, being extracted from the Resolutions of the House of Commons relative to the Promulgation of the Statutes. The number 5500 does not include the Acts furnished to Revenue and other Offices, at times requiring a very great number of copies, when new laws and regulations are made, or new duties imposed, so frequent during the war, particularly new Taxes and Stamp Duties, which must be forthwith distributed all over the kingdom from those Offices. The sums received from these and other departments by the King's Printers must have been immense on many occasions, particularly during the existence of the Property Tax. This could easily be ascertained from the accounts of those Offices. And here it occurs to me to notice, that the Quarto Statutes do not come

out in time, to save the necessity of purchasing the folio Acts, by such persons as are affected by new Statutory Provisions.

Hitherto my statement has partaken very much of the nature of the Committees of Inquiry, "all talk and no work."

But we will now avail ourselves of two useful Returns made to the Committee on Public Expenditure, and printed in their Ninth Report:—

[EXTRACTED from the RESOLUTIONS of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, relative to the PROMULGATION of the STATUTES.]

TOTAL SETS to be transmitted to the Clerks of the Peace for the Use of the Justices of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions holden for each County:—

ENGLAND	1,567
SCOTLAND	320
IRELAND	1,290
	<hr/>
	3,177
	<hr/>

General TOTAL of Public General Acts.

	No. of Acts.
I. Houses of Parliament	1,101
II. Offices and Departments of State	238
III. Public Libraries	34
IV. Courts of Justice	179
V. Sheriffs, Municipal Magistrates, &c.....	771
VI. Resident Acting Justices of the Peace ...	3,177
	<hr/>
	5,500
	<hr/>

I shall therefore now proceed to make calculations, which, I trust, will be useful to future Committees of Inquiry; hoping, however, that the duties of such Committees may be more efficiently executed in future.

A Return was furnished to the Committee of 1810, apparently by Eyre and Strahan, of the 152 Chapters of General Public Acts of 48 Geo. III. (1808), as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Sheets.
100 of 1 Sheet each, at	0	0	2½	is 100
23 ... 2	0	0	5	... 46
7 ... 3	0	0	7½	... 21
6 ... 4	0	0	10	... 24
1 ... 5	0	1	0½	... 5
3 ... 6	0	1	3	... 18
5 ... 7	0	1	5½	... 35
2 ... 8	0	1	8	... 16
1 ... 10	0	2	1	... 10
1 ... 12	0	2	6	... 12
1 ... 13	0	2	8½	... 13
1 ... 22	0	4	7	... 22
1 ... 71	0	14	9½	... 71
<hr/> 152				<hr/> 393
Index, 10 sheets	0	2	1	10
				<hr/> Total 403

In their Return my last column is put first.

Now the price per sheet for Paper and Printing I calculate as follows, and most London Printers will allow that my estimate is sufficiently high :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
First Composition, per sheet, say..	2	2	0			
Filling up	1	1	0			
Alterations and Proofs.....	0	10	6			
Eleven Reams printed at 9s.....	4	19	0			
Eleven Reams of Pott Paper at 16s.	8	16	0			
Incidents	0	11	6			
				18	0	0

Now 5500 Copies, delivered to the Public under a resolution of the House for the promulgation of Statutes, as shewn p. 207, 208, at 2½d. per sheet, amounts to ... 57 5 10
Deduct Paper and Print, as shewn above 18 0 0

Leaving a Bookseller's profit (after allowing Printing profit) of per sheet £ 39 5 10

Then let us take the number of sheets in 1808, according to their statement, as 403 sheets, at £39. 5s. 10d. per sheet, and the annual Bookseller's profit on this portion of the business is £ 15,834 10 10

Upon the above calculations the following observations are requisite :

The price allowed for the Paper (Pott) is the average rate at which it could have been purchased in wholesale by the Stationery Office, as I conceive, during the last Patent.

I have allowed a higher rate than I myself am in the habit of charging for printing Private Bills and Acts.

No calculation is attempted to be made of the produce of Acts sold to Public Offices or private Individuals; nor Proclamations, Orders in Council, Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books; we have no data for such calculation; but the number must be extremely great.

This, however, seems clear, that in the statement of the number of copies distributed by authority of the House of Commons, the supply of Revenue Offices is not included in the branch denominated "Offices and Departments of State," for their demand must be far more extensive, and could not have been reduced to calculation by the House, as it must depend entirely on the nature of the special service for which they were intended—sometimes affecting the Revenue Departments solely, sometimes generally. The Naval and Military Departments would frequently require great numbers of Acts on particular occasions. But I should imagine the Tax Office has been by far the best customer for Acts of Parliament,

during the last Patent, as that Office must, of necessity, send vast numbers into all the districts to their Collectors, Inspectors, &c. The Stamp Office, also, must require a great number themselves, and distribute still more, when alterations have been made in those duties; and at such times the number sold to solicitors and the general public, must be also extremely great.

Are we not then to make some sort of calculation, some guess at the average amount of these sources? Certainly I am limited by the strictness of my engagement, only to state as **FACTS** those things which can be proved, and make deductions perfectly warrantable from those Facts.

I therefore shall only hazard a *Surmise* as to the annual average number of Acts sold to all those Offices and the public at large, but by no means wish it to be assumed as conclusive. I think the quantity cannot be less than 5000 more; in which case, if the number of sheets continued as in 1808, the bookseller's profit would amount to £30,000 per annum. This, for thirty years, would surely be a sum worth inquiring after.

But should Parliament determine to probe this subject, they will not want the means of sifting it most effectually. The Legislature

already possesses immense powers, when it is willing to exercise them. But let it beware whom they trust to execute this service, and sift these matters—not the former inquirers, I hope. But if ever it be proposed to search once more into these hidden mysteries, we must expect to be met with some such objections as these to any further meddling in the matter:—“Have not several Committees of Inquiry been engaged for a considerable length of time in examining the whole subject of Public Printing? Have not their Reports, and the Evidence, been nearly the same? Have not the Committees concurred in approving both the arrangements, and the actors under those arrangements? Have not those Committees contained Whigs as well as Tories—men of all parties? Does not your Printer-Author (we do pity him for having nothing else to do, poor devil) himself confess that he has explained it all (in his way) to the Prime Minister, who saw nothing in it. The poor Printer cannot deny all this, and has only one word in reply—FACTS—let them answer for him.

Certainly I should have expected that some names I saw on that Committee of 1822, would have been serviceable to the public on that occasion; but I was disappointed; for after devoting their time for more than two months to a number

of subjects of much less importance than the Patent and Parliamentary Printing, they break up, and say, in closing their Report, "*The Committee have to regret that the time they have been obliged to devote to the investigation of the different charges brought before them, rendered it impossible for them so to arrange and methodize the information they have received upon the subject of the Printing for the two Houses of Parliament, as to be enabled to make a distinct and satisfactory Report upon that branch of the subject referred to them. They have, however, collected a considerable mass of evidence, oral and documentary, and they strongly recommend that a Committee should be appointed in the course of the next Session, to examine and digest this evidence, and to institute some further inquiries, for the more complete elucidation of a subject connected with an IMPORTANT BRANCH of the Public Expenditure.*"

Thus fell to the ground all the hopes I had cherished, that this important subject would be effectually probed; for not the least notice was taken of these matters for several Sessions afterwards. In truth, it was too evident, the all-ruling Treasury had some *motive* for not permitting the investigation to

proceed further, than a few leading questions put to Mr. Strahan,* and the late Mr. Hansard, which only produced the satisfactory information, that every thing was quite right in that department of expenditure; and that the immense fortunes possessed by certain Officials in the printing line, were the result of a correct and economic system of charge, regulated by themselves at various times, and checked by a friend of their own.

I here must recommend most strongly to any Gentleman whom I may have the good fortune to interest by this my narrative, to examine attentively the evidence of the Committee on Printing and Stationery, in 1822. I think he will there see a complete confirmation of what I have advanced as my opinion in this pamphlet.

I shall here give some specimens of the Patentee's evidence in 1810. That of 1822 tends to establish the same principle, namely, that the extra profits on the sale of the Acts and other articles, *as Books*, belong to them,

* Mr. H. C. Jennings asserts, in a pamphlet he published soon after the Committee broke up, and which I have before me, that it was not Mr. Strahan who was examined—if so, the House of Commons Printer was not very correct in printing Names.

and the amount of such profits ought not to be the subject of inquiry; with which the majority of such inquiring Committees have thought fit to be satisfied.

In 1810, the following questions, put to one of the Patentees, and his replies, form a portion of the Evidence, and contain the main points of my opposing arguments. (*See the Ninth Report on Public Expenditure, p. 205.*)

“ Q.—How is it with regard to Acts of Parliament? A.—Acts of Parliament have ever been sold as Books; so many copies at so much a copy.

“ Q.—Would the rate of charge for similar work performed for an individual, be the same as that which is charged to the public for printing Acts of Parliament?

“ A.—The King’s Printer *has always been the Bookseller*, both with respect to the public and with respect to individuals, the COPYRIGHT *being vested in him*.*

“ Q.—Are they charged by you, when sold to the Public, as any other similar Book would be charged? A.—They are charged at a *much cheaper* rate than any

* Who gave them this Copyright, or by what instrument it was given, they do not explain. The Patent does not give it—by the *wording* of it, if that is any thing.

plated, at the time they obtained, unhappily for other Printers, their exclusive (I might say *illegal*) Monopoly of Printing, to such an immense extent of business, and for so long a term; now again renewed, and to be endured till the year 1860, if its illegality is not proved, as I feel confident it may be proved.

But what are we to think of those advisers of the two last Sovereigns, who induced them to grant this Monopoly, and who wilfully suffered these Grants to be construed in a manner so injurious to the public interest?

I shall boldly state my opinion, that the persons who promoted these measures must have had a personal interest in so doing. I do not mean to allude to Mr. Pitt—far from it; he was deceived—that very plainly appears. I say nothing, as to his deviating from his plan of abolishing these Monopolies; his motive, not perhaps defensible, has been hinted at before. There was a secret history belonging to the transaction, which will probably never be clearly elucidated; with that I have no concern on this occasion. But let it not for a moment be supposed, that Mr. Pitt would have entertained the idea of renewing this Patent, if he could have imagined what large sums had been lost to the Public previously, or that still larger would be appro-

“ therefore *no accounts* which separate one
 “ branch of the expence from the general
 “ establishment. The profit of the Prin-
 “ ter is very small, in comparison with
 “ that of the Bookseller,* who has the
 “ right of sale. This right we have al-
 “ ways exercised precisely in the same
 “ mode, and at the same rate of charge,
 “ as has invariably been done by all our
 “ predecessors.”

The above brings the whole question be-
 fore us.—Had these Patentees a right to a
double profit? I say, with confidence, they
 never had. Will the public be of the same
 opinion? I can only hope they will; for it is
 undeniable, that the profit on the sale of *Books*
 has always been very large, and belonged to the
 public, after giving the Patentees the *Printing*
profit, which the Grant mentions, and which it
 plainly appears was all they themselves contem-

sell these Acts? the public account, surely, as Mr. Nichols
 does the Votes, and carries the amount to the credit side
 of his account—I have no doubt very honorably.

* The profit on Parliamentary Printing is usually a
 handsome profit, and I wish Mr. Hansard had candidly
 confessed this, because that description of work fairly en-
 titles the Printers to a handsome, though not immoderate,
 profit. But certainly the profit on Acts of Parliament, as
Books, is much greater.

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priated, under a pretended right, which he thought was sufficiently guarded against by the introduction of the clause, *conditioning* that the prices should, in the opinion of the Treasury, be "*fair and reasonable*." Did he imagine that the accounts *would never be examined*; the principle of the charges never laid down; from 30 to £40,000 a-year not thought worth check or consideration? Did he imagine it probable—possible—that Committees of Inquiry would *conceal* these facts? Certainly it is but fair to his memory to conclude that he did not.

I have very little more to add at present, than to call upon our Representatives in Parliament to probe this subject; ascertain, as soon as possible, the amount of our claims on the last Patentees; to demand an account; but to be most *especially careful* to appoint persons on the next Inquiry whom they can *confide in*, who are *disinterested*, who are *acute and persevering*, or the Public will be again disappointed; and it is but too evident that they cannot bear much disappointment at the present moment.

I must acknowledge I felt hurt and humiliated at the perfect indifference that was manifested by the Committee of 1822, as to the evidence I gave on this very important sub-

ject, and that there should not have been a *single* Member of that Committee inclined to pursue the clue I then gave them, to the detection of this abuse, and the prevention of its being continued for *Thirty Years* more! If they had any doubts of the facts I stated, why not send to the Chancery Office? there lies the bill of Reeves, and the other Parties' answer. Why not devote a few minutes to the examination of the Patent itself? Only one conclusion can be drawn from this document, namely, that the Patentees are only to be entitled to payment as *Printers*. Probably some persons might whisper away my credibility, but it must be a whisper. I may venture to assert, that my character for truth and integrity is too firmly established, to make it safe for them to speak out.

That they will never forgive one whom they have so shamefully ill-treated, there can be little doubt. Worse than this, I have dared to complain; and, worse than all, I presumed to give information they *did not want*, and against their particular *protégées*.

Will the Public believe it possible, that these subordinates, in the late King's service, should have had the assurance to pretend, that in persuading Ministers to turn out of their employ the cheapest Printers in their service,

they were redeeming the pledge given, in his Majesty's speeches to Parliament, on the subject of *Economy*; whilst they supported and applauded the Patent Printers in their absurd claims, and enormous demands? No: impossible! their conduct and proceedings showed a compound of hypocrisy, meanness, extravagance, cruelty, partiality, and injustice! I earnestly supplicate his present Majesty to compel these persons to explain their proceedings, and account for such conduct. Their names would be easily discoverable.

Before closing this part of my subject, I shall again observe, that the calculations I have given of the amount of the Patentees' receipts for the sale of Acts, &c. relate only to the year when the returns were given to the Committee in 1810. Whether they have been *more or less, on the average of years*, before and since, I do not know. I observe, however, that the number of sheets of General Acts last year (1829) has considerably diminished, consequently the Public must be contented with a smaller bookseller's profit for the same; but that does not diminish the force of my argument.

Having thus shewn the ruinous effects of extravagance, during the last reign, caused by these exclusive Grants for such long terms as

Thirty Years, renewed again and again, I shall now shew the reverse system of *parsimony*, by promoting *excessive competition*, which must, in a few years, complete the destruction of the Printing Business, and leave no independent person in that line; the Stationery Office system being far more injurious in its effects than even the great Monopolies,

mand, names by which the articles were known, sizes of books, and a number of other particulars, without a knowledge of which public business must soon have been greatly obstructed; for the Revenue could not be collected, and other services carried on, without a regular supply of books and papers, which must be prepared at a certain time, and in certain quantities, known only to the Printers, whose experience, from many years employment, and references to their books of account, enabled them to furnish every sort of information which Government stood in need of.

It will be seen in my evidence, printed in the Appendix to the Report of 1822, that I pointed out the evil effects of the want of knowledge of Printing and Stationery subjects, of the Superintendants placed at the head of the new Establishment; the injurious consequences of that sort of ignorance to the public service, it could not be difficult to foresee.

The Treasury were easily persuaded by the new Storekeeper, that the Office concerns required new modelling. The consequence was, the dismissal of the old tradesmen, and putting up the work to Contract for four years, by Tenders, grounded on the Scale lately established, as regarded Printing.

I confess myself one of those who have never been able to discover the public services which this Country has had to thank the late Earl of Liverpool for; but the act of taking this fellow into the public service as *his Majesty's Storekeeper*, was enough to tarnish a reputation for public virtues, however splendid.

Would it be credited that any respectable Government would place in a situation of great trust and confidence, a man of such a character as this redoubted personage? Every one knew that he had been more than once bankrupt, yet having the assurance to ask for a confidential situation. His bill-brokering transactions well known; at the time of his being taken into his Majesty's service. He gains credence at the Treasury by grossly abusing public servants of twenty, thirty, and forty years' standing—honorable persons, against whom not a charge could be sustained—calling them Cheats—pretending to make a great *SAVING* for Government if they would make him Storekeeper of the Stationery Office. This worthy person was thought, by the worthy persons at the Treasury, and the worthy persons at the Stationery Place, to be a fit and proper individual to lay down a plan of *Economy*, forsooth, by turning adrift all the old tradesmen, and substituting others, respecting

whose characters the Government knew nothing whatever, to conduct public business of the utmost confidentiality and importance.

But first it became necessary that this great economising genius should not be impeded in his operations of saving to the public, by any troublesome creditors; therefore he went into the Rules, took the benefit of the Act, and left his Majesty's Stores to take care of themselves. The Treasury gentlemen did not think it necessary, at this time, it should seem, to advert to the regulations for the Stationery Office, under which it became necessary for the Store-keeper to give a considerable *personal* security. Of course a man who takes the benefit of the Insolvent Act can, at the same time, give very satisfactory security. However, that did not matter—the Treasury folks had their reasons, and trifles like these could not, in the last reign, stand against the Treasury will and pleasure.

About three years previous to this man's appointment, the Treasury Board had referred all the charges made by the Revenue and other Printers (excepting, of course, Patentees, &c.) to two very respectable gentlemen in that line, by whom a Scale was drawn up, which I have hereafter given a copy of, as it applied to my department, the Excise.

By this Scale all our charges, given in weekly, were precisely regulated; I lay it before the respectable part of my brethren in the Printing business, in the fullest confidence that they would be ready, at any time, to assure Parliament, as the Referees certified to the Treasury, that lower charges could not be afforded.

It must depend, however, upon the amount of the annual sum total, whether the profit would remunerate the chief of a concern for his labour, capital, risk, and responsibility, in carrying on a scientific and confidential business, like that of Public Printing."

I shall therefore give my amount, in the last full year of my service (1817), in order to enable practical men (of respectability) having the whole case before them, to judge me, as strictly as they will.

When Mr. Pitt, at the expiration of the other Patents, declared, through the late Sir G. Rose, "that Government had no design or wish to remove the tradesmen employed previously by the Patentees," it was a measure of *prudence*, as well as justice; for the business was particularly intricate, and the new officials were glad to consult the Printers and Bookbinders, for the various departments, as to the description, average quantity used, time of de-

mand, names by which the articles were known, sizes of books, and a number of other particulars, without a knowledge of which public business must soon have been greatly obstructed; for the Revenue could not be collected, and other services carried on, without a regular supply of books and papers, which must be prepared at a certain time, and in certain quantities, known only to the Printers, whose experience, from many years employment, and references to their books of account, enabled them to furnish every sort of information which Government stood in need of.

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Having thus shewn the ruinous effects of extravagance, during the last reign, caused by these exclusive Grants for such long terms as

I must take the present opportunity, probably the only one I shall ever have, of earnestly appealing to the new Legislature of my Country, for redress of a great and crying grievance, to which I myself, and no doubt vast numbers of other individuals, have been subjected, by the secret, concealed system, pursued during the late reign at the Treasury, with respect to PETITIONS and COMPLAINTS addressed to the Treasury Board.

My own case will exemplify the evils of which I complain; evils which, I feel confident, have produced most extensive injury to the whole community.

In consequence of my undeserved dismissal, and ill-treatment, in 1818, I petitioned the Treasury Board, stating, "That I had been
 " many years in the employ of Government, as
 " Printer to several departments, and in printing the London Gazette, &c. concerns all of
 " great confidentiality, in which I succeeded my
 " father. That I had devoted the whole attention of my life to these concerns, passing by
 " other sources, from which I might have obtained an income, and advanced my fortune.
 " That after thirty years labour in the service,
 " I had not been able to make a sufficient
 " independence to maintain my family, as a
 " large portion of my property was sunk in
 " capital and materials for the Government

" business, which, from their nature, were use-
 " less for any other purpose. That I had been
 " discharged from my employ, without being
 " accused, or having committed *any fault*
 " *whatever*. That my charges were as low as
 " I could afford, was a fact well known, having
 " been certified under the hands of respectable
 " Printers, appointed by Government, to whom
 " all my prices were submitted, in the year
 " 1814, and by whom they had been arranged
 " in a Scale, which had been strictly adhered
 " to, and sanctioned by their own Officers." I
 state also other grounds of claim.

It will, I think, plainly appear, that I was
 entitled to some consideration, some compen-
 sation, *if these statements were true*; for I
 had been grievously *punished, without the*
slightest fault PUBLICLY *imputed*. Now comes
 my grievance, which I MOST STRENUOUSLY
 COMPLAIN OF. My statement could be, and
 probably was, *secretly* impugned or contra-
 dicted; my character might be *secretly* as-
 persed, by persons having access to certain
 powerful individuals. No opportunity is given
 to defend our characters from such attacks;
 no question can be made, as to their Lord-
 ships motives *for refusing* to listen to our peti-
 tion; no enquiry as to what part of our state-
 ment they doubt, what position or principle they

deny. No : "their Lordships don't see," don't consider," "don't think," &c. must satisfy.

I consider myself to have been most cruelly and unjustly treated by the Ministers of his late Majesty. My services, of the most important and confidential nature, entitled me to reward, instead of dismissal; but, to my petition, their Lordships say, "I have no claim, as I was paid for the work I performed." This might be *legal justice*, but neither *equity* nor *policy*. In fact, it was completely a Star-Chamber practice, and must have been caused by secret influence, and the whispers of aspersion.

Better things, I trust, may now be looked forward to. I hope, therefore, that, in common with the whole nation, my numerous family, and their descendants, will experience, under the present and future Sovereigns, protection against such unjustifiable treatment, should they ever find themselves in a similar situation.

I have now very earnestly to request, from the Legislature and Public, a candid examination of the Scale of Prices to which I was limited by the Stationery Office at the time my employment was taken from me. I imagined I had made, in 1814, a *virtual*, though not a *formal* Contract for printing, at those Scale-

Prices, the Excise Forms for Books and miscellaneous Papers, but was cruelly disappointed. I also entreat particularly the attention of all my brother Printers to the total amount received by me for the same, in the year 1817, being the last complete year I enjoyed the business, carried on for more than forty years on the premises where this pamphlet is printed, and where, for a century at least, the LONDON GAZETTE, and the Printing for several other Departments, was likewise conducted. All which, within a few years, have been taken from me; not from any imputation of neglect, or want of fidelity, but by most false representations that the prices were too high; the contrary is the fact—they were too low to procure for me, after a labour of many years, that independence at the latter part of life, to which we all justly look forward. I shall prove this by the following statement from my books:—

In the last full year (1817) of my being employed as Excise Printer, my accounts with Government stood as follows:—

<i>Number of Reams printed</i>	5400
<i>Number of Articles</i>	900
<i>Total of my Charge for the</i>	} £3177 odd shillings.
<i>same, and which the usual</i>	
<i>amount did not exceed</i>	

The nature of the work was principally column matter, much more costly than Acts of Parliament, with many large and expensive Broad-sides, as they are called by Printers, subject to the very high rate of price paid for Table-work.

No charge was ever made for the original composition or repair of the Stock Forms; and it will scarcely be credited, that the Treasury refused to grant me the smallest remuneration for those Forms, set up at my own cost, by which the public always saved the expence, and I lost the profit, of the compositor's charge,

RECAPITULATION.

900 Articles, or sheets, amounting to 5400 }
reams, for the gross total sum of } £3177

My allowance to the Patentees, for printing the Acts of Parliament, would shew the following result, taken at the amount of 403 sheets, as in 1808.—(See p. 27.)

403 Sheets (4436 reams) on Pott Paper, }
at £9. 4s. per sheet } £3707

	Sheets.	Rms.	Charge.
Brooke, (turned out for high charges).....	900.....	5400.....	£3177
Strahan and Co. (to be employed Thirty Years longer) }	403.....	4436.....	£3707

Exclusive of printing for the House of Lords, Record Commissioners, &c. &c. immense in quantity, and still leaving

The Bookseller's Profit for the Public.

REMARKS

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

CONTRACTS for terms of years, entered into by Government with private individuals, either for the supply of goods, or the performance of work, at a fixed and unvarying price, are always injurious to the State.

Many persons are apt to imagine, that as both the Contracting Parties belong to the same State, the interests of the Community cannot be injured, since what one loses the other gains. That this is a fallacy, we shall endeavour to shew by the following positions :

The fair principles of trade are founded on the presumption, from experience, that the circumstances which govern it will be constantly liable to variation and change.

Therefore Contracts for terms of years, at an unvarying price, partake of the nature of gambling transactions on the results of those changes.

But well-regulated Governments should consider themselves not at liberty to speculate

and gamble in any such manner; Nor should they encourage others to make similar speculations, which may eventually prove ruinous to them.

And it cannot be denied, that it is highly probable there will be great loss or disadvantage, on one side or the other; because, if considerable gain was not contemplated by Government, the arrangement would be useless and inconvenient.

In either case, however, the State must be injured, the only difference being, whether the injury it sustains is direct or indirect.

In contracting for a long term, at high prices, the State sustains a direct and immediate loss, which may increase to an extent not within its contemplation at the time of contracting; it is also thereby injured, by unduly raising the price of labour or commodities to the community at large.

In contracting, on the other hand, at an extremely low price, it is but too probable that the Contractor will be ruined, or greatly injured. Now an injury to a part of a body being an injury to the whole, the body politic is clearly thereby injured. The remedy to be applied for the cure of this injury, is the profit obtained by Government at the time; but this remedy will not be effectual, since a farther and greater loss still has been sustained by the

commercial part of the community, in the reduction of average prices and profits of labour, &c., the extensive demands and dealings of the Government having an influential effect on all transactions in the same branch of business; this loss may become ruinous.

Contracts for terms of years are not only injurious, but illegal, in a constitutional point of view—since the payment of fixed sums, in future years, has not been authorized by Parliament, and may never receive such authority, if the terms or arrangements are disapproved.

The improper practices induced by the system of contracting for long terms at fixed and low prices, is so well known that it need not be enlarged upon.

The impolicy of the system is very great and manifest. Contractors for supplying the large demands of Government, if for performing work, soon become independent of the control which can be exercised over persons employed during pleasure, *quamdiu se bene gesserint*. And in the case of supplying goods, Contractors on a large scale obtain an undue power over the market, thereby frequently compelling the renewal of their Contract on their own terms.

No inducement arises, in executing a Contract to perform work for a term of years, to exert any more care, diligence, watchfulness,

or frugality, on behalf of the Government, (not now considered as employers, but bondsmen) than the words of the Contract (so liable to difference of construction) compel them to; and it is almost always found, that the official solicitors, ignorant, as they must necessarily be, of the technical terms of arts or manufactures, leave sufficient loop-holes for those who, to get the Contract, have made what they think hard bargains, effectually to evade its true meaning, and thereby impose upon the Government.

The Contractors frequently become entrusted, unavoidably, with confidential matters of great importance; the use which they make of such information cannot be limited by the wording of any Contract. This is very particularly applicable to Printing, and it is well known to the writer, having himself possessed great power of that kind, during the time he was employed in several public departments.

These arguments against Public Contracts for terms of years might be carried much farther, doubtless, by persons of greater ability than the writer; but he thinks they are sufficiently convincing to justify this conclusion, that it is more beneficial to employ persons to perform work *during pleasure*, and while they perform the duty faithfully; and, as for goods, to buy them of the *best quality*, when they are wanting, and at the *market-price* of the day.

SUGGESTIONS

FOR ESTABLISHING

A PARLIAMENTARY PRINTING OFFICE.

INCLUDING A PLACE OF DEPOSIT FOR PRINTED PAPERS;
AND FOR THE DELIVERY OR SALE OF ACTS OF
PARLIAMENT, AND OTHER PARLIAMENTARY DOCU-
MENTS.

The injurious effects of Contracts for terms of years to supply Goods, or to execute Work for Government, being thus, as I trust, proved, it must be evident that Public Printing comes within the range of our argument. The reasons for effecting a change of system in this department are more cogent than in others, in as much as the business transacted is of infinitely greater importance. I therefore beg leave to make the following Suggestions.

First. It is not safe to allow such important papers to be transmitted for printing to a great distance from the Houses of Parliament, as at present.

No sufficient security can be ensured as to the accuracy and fidelity in printing Acts

of Parliament, and other Parliamentary Papers, but through responsible public Officers, selected by Government for their known integrity and fitness, and acting in contiguity to the Parliamentary Offices.

A secure place of Deposit for all original Papers, which should have a regular authentication, would manifestly be an advantage of the highest importance.

A residence for each Superintendent of the various departments of copying, examining, printing, sale, distribution, and deposit of Acts, &c. would produce most advantageous results.

An Examiner of Acts of Parliament, &c. and Corrector of the Press, who should have permission to point out accidental inaccuracies in the authenticated copy or manuscript, and suggest any improvement, through the medium of the high authorities.

An establishment of Copying Clerks should certainly be provided for, and form a portion of the same building, which would afford to the two Houses of Parliament considerably more space for Committee business, &c.

The Annual Saving would be very considerable, and the outfit by no means so large as some persons would wish to induce Govern-

ment to believe; for, under proper regulation a much smaller quantity of type, &c. would suffice, than at present is said to be indispensable.

The Building, erected for the purpose, should be strong and capacious, but not expensive; the plan should be particularly well considered before it is erected; and the most convenient situation would be Millbank or Abingdon Street.

A liberal Price should be paid to all Printing Workmen in the establishment, which would secure plenty of hands, and not be injurious to Private Printers; it would encourage journeymen to pursue a steady conduct, in order to become eligible for Government employ.

The gratitude and attachment of these workmen to Government, as their employers, would be certain, and evidently beneficial.

A Sale of public Papers, at a small rate, would be established, instead of the wasteful destruction of them at present practised; which produces very small emolument to the persons selling them as perquisites, frequently in the same Session, though costing large sums to the Public.

Many very useful arrangements respecting Statutes, particularly those repealed, might

easily be devised, which cannot be accomplished during the existence of any exclusive Grant or Patent to private individuals.

The absolute Saving to be expected can only be conjectural; but the writer has no doubt it would exceed half the gross sum paid for these services at present; and that two or three years' saving, perhaps less, would pay the expence of the outfit.

Many more suggestions occur to the writer; but, at present, he will only add, that there is no difficulty in carrying the above into execution, if the sanction of the proper authorities could be obtained.

All which is respectfully submitted by

SAMUEL BROOKE.

35, *Pater Noster Row*,
Oct. 26, 1830.

COPY

[As printed in the Appendix to the Report of a Committee
of the HOUSE OF COMMONS in 1810]

OF THE

PATENT FOR KING'S PRINTER,

GRANTED IN 1799, AND RENEWED TO MESSRS. EYRE,
STRAHAN, AND SPOTTISWOODE, IN 1829.

GEORGE the Third by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth, To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting: WHEREAS Our Royal Ancestor George the First late King of Great Britain, &c. by his Letters Patent under his Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date at Westminster the 15th day of December in the second year of his Reign, for himself his Heirs and Successors, did give and grant to his beloved and trusty John Baskett, of his City of London, Bookseller,* his executors and assigns, the *Office of Printer* to the said late King His Heirs and Successors, of all and singular Statutes, Books, small Books, Acts of Parliament, Proclamations and Injunctions, and Bibles and New Testaments whatsoever, in the English tongue or in any other tongue whatsoever of any translation, with notes or without notes; and also of all Books of Common Prayer and Adminis-

* Although Mr. Baskett is here called, and possibly was, a Bookseller, the Grant was only of the—*Office of Printer*.

tration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, in any volumes whatsoever theretofore printed by the Royal Typographers for the time being, or thereafter to be printed by the command privilege or authority of Him His Heirs or Successors; and also of all other Books whatsoever which He had commanded or should command or His Heirs or Successors should command to be used for the service of God in the Churches of that part of His Realm of Great Britain called England; and of all other books volumes and things whatsoever, by whatsoever name term title or meaning, or by whatsoever names terms titles or meanings they were named called or distinguished, or any of them was named called or distinguished, or thereafter should be named called or distinguished thentofore printed by the Royal Typographers for the time being, or then already by the Parliament of Great Britain in the English tongue or in any other mixed tongue, published printed or worked off, or thereafter to be published worked off or put to the press, by the command privilege or authority of Him His Heirs or Successors (except only the Rudiments of the Grammatical Institutions of the Latin tongue): To have enjoy occupy and exercise the said *Office*, together with all profits, commodities, and advantages, pre-eminences and privileges to the same *Office* in anywise belonging or appertaining to the said John Baskett his Executors and Assigns, by him or themselves, or by his or their sufficient deputy or deputies, for the term of Thirty Years, to commence and be computed from and immediately after the expiration or other determination of

the several and respective estates and interests in the said *Office* before that time granted by Our Royal Predecessor Ann Queen of Great Britain, by Her Letters Patent made under her Seal of Great Britain, bearing date at Westminster the 13th day of October, in the 12th year of her Reign to her beloved subjects Benjamin Tooke and John Barber, of Her City of London, Booksellers, and each of them their and each of their Executors and Assigns, to have enjoy exercise and occupy the said *Office* to the said Benjamin Tooke and John Barber for the term of Thirty Years, to commence and be computed from and immediately after the expiration or other sooner determination of the several and respective estates and interests before that time granted by Our late Royal Predecessor Charles the Second, late King of England Scotland France and Ireland, by his Letters Patent made under his Great Seal of England bearing date at Westminster the 24th day of December in the 27th year of his Reign, to his beloved subjects Thomas Newcomb and Henry Hills; to have enjoy exercise and occupy the said *Office* to the said Thomas Newcomb and Henry Hills for the term of Thirty Years, which last-mentioned term of Thirty Years begun at and from the 10th day of January 1709: as by the said Letters Patent made to the said John Baskett, amongst other things in the same contained, relation being thereunto had, will more plainly and at large appear: Now know ye, That We, for divers good causes and consideration Us at this time specially moving, of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion,

Have given and granted, and by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors, Do give and grant unto Our beloved and trusty John Reeves of Cecil-street within the Liberty of the Savoy parcel of Our Duchy of Lancaster, George Eyre of Lyndhurst in Our County of Hants, and Andrew Strahan of Our City of London, Stationer, and each of them their and each of their Executors Administrators and Assigns, the *Office of Printer* to Us Our Heirs and Successors, of all and singular Statutes, Books, small Books, Acts of Parliament, Proclamations and Injunctions, Bibles and New Testaments whatsoever, in the English tongue or in any other tongue whatsoever of any translation, with notes or without notes; and also of all Books of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, in any volumes whatsoever heretofore printed by the Royal Typographers for the time being, or hereafter to be printed by the command privilege or authority of Us Our Heirs or Successors; and also of all other books whatsoever which We have commanded or hereafter shall command, or Our Heirs or Successors shall command to be used for the service of God in the Churches of that part of Our Realm of Great Britain called England, and of all other books volumes and things whatsoever, by whatsoever name term title or meaning, or by whatsoever names terms titles or meanings they are named called or distinguished, or any of them is named called or distinguished, or hereafter shall be named called or distinguished, heretofore printed by the Royal Typo-

graphers for the time being, or by the Parliament of Great Britain, in the English tongue or in any other mixed tongue, already published printed or worked off, or hereafter to be published worked off or put to the press, by the command privilege or authority of Us Our Heirs or Successors; (except only the Rudiments of the Grammatical Institutions of the Latin tongue): And them the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, and their Executors and Assigns, *Printer to Us Our Heirs and Successors*, of all and singular the premises, We make ordain and constitute by these Presents, to have enjoy occupy and exercise the said *Office*, together with all profits commodities and advantages, pre-eminences and privileges to the said *Office* in anywise belonging or appertaining, to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors and Assigns, by themselves or by their sufficient Deputy or Deputies, for and during the term of Thirty Years, to commence and be computed from and immediately after the expiration or other determination of the Estate and Interest in the said *Office* before granted to the said John Baskett his Executors and Assigns, or when or as soon as the said *Office* shall be vacant and shall happen by any means whatsoever to be in Our hands, in the same manner as if such Grant had not been made: AND further, We of our more abundant grace certain knowledge and mere motion Do give and grant to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, and each of them, their and each of their Executors Administrators and

Assigns, during the same Term of Thirty Years last above mentioned, authority privilege and faculty of printing all and all manner of Abridgments of all Statutes and Acts of Parliament whatsoever published or hereafter to be published: AND in order that no one do presume to impede or in anywise disturb the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, or either of them, their or either of their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, during the aforesaid term to them granted in the said *Office*, in rightfully and duly exercising their said *Office*, or to do any thing whatsoever, whereby the profits which may accrue to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, or any of them, their or either of their Executors Administrators or Assigns, by reason of the said *Office*, may be diminished, We prohibit and enjoin and by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors forbid all and singular the subjects of Us Our Heirs and Successors, whatsoever and wheresoever abiding, and all others whatsoever, that neither they nor any of them, neither by themselves or by any other or others during the said last-mentioned Term of Thirty Years, *print* or cause to be printed within that part of our Realm of Great Britain called England, any volume book or work, or any volumes books or works, the printing of which We by these Presents have granted to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors and Assigns, nor any Bibles or New Testaments in the English tongue of any translation, with notes or without notes, nor any Books of Common Prayer and Admi-

nistration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, nor any other books, by Us Our Heirs or Successors for the Service of God in the Churches of Us Our Heirs or Successors commanded or to be commanded to be used, nor import or cause to be imported, sell or cause to be sold any books volumes or works whatsoever, in the English tongue or in the English mixed with any other tongue whatsoever, printed in parts beyond the seas, or in foreign parts out of that part of Our Realm of Great Britain called England, being such as have been or may be lawfully printed by the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, or either of them, their or either of their Administrators, Executors, or Assigns, or their or either of their Deputy or Deputies by virtue of these Presents, under the penalties and forfeitures by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm in that behalf made and provided, or that may be hereafter provided: Forbidding also, and by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors firmly prohibiting and enjoining, that no other shall in any manner or by any colour or pretext whatsoever presume or dare to reprint in any manner whatsoever, or purchase, elsewhere printed, any book or books or any work or works whatsoever, that may be printed by the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, or either of them, their or either of their Executors Administrators or Assigns by virtue of these Presents: AND further, of Our more abundant grace We have granted and given licence and by these Presents We do for Us Our Heirs and Successors

grant and give licence to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, them and each of them, and to their and each of their Executors Administrators and Assigns, that they or any of them during the aforesaid term to them above granted, may take retain and hire Workmen in the art and mystery of Printing, to work in such art or mystery at the appointment and by the assignment of the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors or Assigns, for such time or times during which the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors or Assigns or any of them, shall want such Workmen, We have also given and granted, and by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors, do give and grant to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, and each of them, their and each of their Executors Administrators and Assigns, for exercising the said *Office*, a Fee or Annuity of £6. 13s. 4d. of lawful Money of Great Britain, by the year, To have and annually receive the said Fee or Annuity of £6. 13s. 4d. to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors Administrators and Assigns, at the Feasts of Easter and St. Michael the Archangel, to be paid in equal portions during the said term of Thirty Years above by these Presents granted, from the Treasury of Us Our Heirs and Successors, at the Receipt of Our Exchequer at Westminster, by the hands of the Commissioners of our Treasury, or the Treasurer and Chamberlain of Us Our Heirs and Successors for the time being ; Commanding and by these

Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors firmly enjoining and ordering all and singular Mayors Sheriffs Bailiffs Constables Officers Ministers and Subjects whatsoever, of Us Our Heirs and Successors, that they be, from time to time when there shall be occasion, assisting attendant and aiding, as they ought, to the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors and Assigns, in the execution of the aforesaid *Office*, and in the doing of all and singular the things specified in these Our Letters Patent to be done: **PROVIDED** always, and Our Will and Pleasure nevertheless is, that these our Letters Patent are and shall be deemed to be made and granted, and to be valid and effectual *only upon condition* that the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, their Executors and Assigns, from time to time and at all times during the term hereinbefore granted, and when and as often as they or any of them shall be required by Our Lord High Treasurer, or the Commissioners of Our Treasury for the time being, or at his or their instance, or by his or their Order, to *print* for and supply to Us Our Heirs or Successors, or in any manner whatsoever for or on Our behalf or for Our service, any of the articles matters or things which by virtue of these Our Letters Patent, and the *Office* hereby granted, they or any of them are authorized to *print*; and for or in respect of the printing and supplying of which, they can or may be entitled to require demand or receive any price or payment whatsoever, over and above the said Fee hereby granted, shall and do accordingly *print*

for and supply to Us Our Heirs and Successors, or in such manner for or on Our behalf or for Our service, all and every such articles matters and things respectively, at and for *such prices* and rates of payment for the same respectively, as to Our said Treasurer or Lords of Our Treasury for the time being shall appear to be *just and reasonable*.† **LASTLY**, We will, and by these Presents for Us Our Heirs and Successors, do grant unto the said John Reeves, George Eyre, and Andrew Strahan, that these Our Letters Patent, or the Inrollment of the same, shall be good firm valid and effectual in the Law, notwithstanding ~~the~~ not rightly or fully reciting the before recited Letters Patent, or the not naming or the not rightly naming or mentioning the Office and Premises aforesaid, or any of them, and notwithstanding any other omission, imperfection defect thing cause or matter whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. **IN WITNESS** whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent. **WITNESS** Ourselves at Westminster, the 8th day of July, in the 39th year of Our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

Wilmot.

† This Clause was first introduced into the Patent on the granting the office to Messrs. Reeves, Eyre, and Strahan, as stated by the Committee of 1810.

BROOKE, 35, PATER-NOSTER-BOW, LONDON.

1	Ditto	General Vouchers	1	Ditto	Second Demy	1
1	Ditto	Ditto Credits	1	Ditto	Cypher Royal	1
1	Ditto	Ditto Stocks	1	Ditto	Ditto with Cross Lines	1
1	Ditto	General Vouchers	1	Ditto	Ditto	1
1	Ditto	Glass Surveys	1	Ditto	Ditto	1
1	Ditto	Ditto Dimensions	1	Ditto	Ditto	1
1	Ditto	Hide Specimens	1	Ditto	Foolscap	1
1	Ditto	Ditto Surveys	1	Ditto	Cypher Demy	1
1	Ditto	Hop Surveys	1	Ditto	Royal	1

EXC

The following FORMS are to be Contractor; all Deficiencies in Charge for Paper or Printing.

[N.B.—The Biddings were to be on th
taken at 41½ per cent. Discount.

SIZE of PAPER.	Number of Sheets.	Rate per Ream.	
		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Imperial Demy . .	1 to 50	10	6
Imperial Royal . .	1 to 18	11	6
Imperial Demy . .	1 to 18	9	0
Ditto	1 to 30	9	0
Octavo	1	7	0
Ditto	1	7	0
Imperial Royal . .	1 to 6	11	6
Ditto	1 to 30	8	0
Imperial Demy . .	1 to 30	9	0
Ditto	1 to 15	9	0
Octavo	1 to 6	8	0
Imperial Demy . .	1 to 12	9	0
Imperial Royal . .	1 to 10	11	6
Cond Demy	1	8	0
Square Royal . . .		11	6
Octavo	1	7	0
Ditto	1 to 40	7	0
Ditto	1 & 2	7	0
Imperial Royal . .	1 to 12	11	6
Ditto	1	7	0
Ditto	1	7	0



